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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria Bare

Marine Cpl. Ross Jupert, a member of the Marine Wing Support Squadron 472nd Detachment B from Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., lays block at the Gonzalo Rivera school construction site recently.

Marines tackle “mountain” to build a school

By Staff Sgt. Beth Orlen

*New Horizons 2006 – Honduras
Public Affairs*

When the members of Marine Wing Support Squadron 472 decided to take on the Gonzalo Rivera school construction site, they didn't realize the challenges they would face – changing construction plans, rain and erosion, and a 45-degree hill.

But that didn't stop the nine combat engineer Marines and

their team of six Hondurans and four augmentees from accomplishing their mission.

“It's a difficult location and we had to improve the road leading to the site, deal with the 45-degree incline and build a 30-foot retaining wall before we could begin construction on the school,” said Marine Capt. Eric Adams, New Horizons 2006 – Honduras deputy commander.

Just getting the materials to the site proved a challenge in

itself, said Marine Staff Sgt. Kenneth Cumper, a 472nd member and the Gonzalo Rivera project manager.

“The biggest problem was pouring the concrete. The local vendor would not drive up the hill,” he said.

But the Marines didn't let that stop the project. A pump truck and two front-end loaders were brought up the hill, and a 9-by-8 foot hopper to funnel

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Briefs

Library books available

The Tactic Field Exchange has a large selection of books to check out. There's science fiction, fiction and even a few nonfiction books.

Coins for sale

The Tactic Field Exchange is currently taking orders for the New Horizons 2006 – Honduras coin. They are \$4 if you will pick them up the beginning of May and \$5 if they are to be mailed.

There are a limited number of coins, so place your order as soon as possible.

Marines

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the concrete into the pump truck was built to get the concrete pad complete.

Figuring out new ways of doing things has been a constant at this construction site in the middle of the city of La Ceiba.

Marine Cpls. Ross Jupert and Amber Keddy, both with the 472nd's Detachment B, have had to learn how to do business differently.

"I've never built with concrete blocks before," said Corporal Keddy, who was curious to learn the way the Hondurans build things.

"I do construction back home ... but this is a different kind of construction," said Corporal Jupert. "The differences are small but it can make a big difference if it's not done right.

Where's Ducky?



Photo by Staff Sgt. Beth Orlen

Ducky, the unofficial New Horizons 2006 – Honduras mascot, has lost his way on the base. The first three people to identify where Ducky is will receive a prize from the Tactical Field Exchange. Guesses should be personally brought to the New Horizons Public Affairs Office. The winner's names and Ducky's location will be announced each week in *The Pico Bonito Times*.

The hardest part is the corners; they have to be perfectly level."

Learning and mastering a new skill is just one benefit the Marines are getting from building the school.

"This exercise is not only a great opportunity for the Marines to train in a new skill, it (also) allows us to leave something meaningful behind that the people of Gonzalo Rivera need very much," said Captain Adams.

"I think it's magnificent. There are a lot of people that bother the children up here (during school) and having the school up here will keep them away from all of that," said Hilesis Valeska Navarro, a local resident who grew up in the area.

Corporal Jupert said he is happy to help build the school because of the way the people treat them.

"I love the people here. They're thankful for what we are doing and will cook for us. It's pretty

neat," he said.

The atmosphere at the site impressed Captain Adams as well.

"The positive attitudes and genuine welcome that we have received from the Honduran people have surprised me most of all," said Captain Adams. "They are happy to have us here and have actually helped along the way. We told them we would have trouble making a particular turn, so they took it upon themselves to dig out the side of the hill, which allowed us to pass freely."

The team is about halfway through the project and will continue until the last brick is placed completing the 28-by-50 foot, two-room school house sometime in April.

The Gonzalo Rivera project is one of four schools and one medical clinic being built in the La Ceiba area as part of New Horizons 2006 – Honduras.



Army News

Army changes Tattoo policy

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) – The Army has revised its policy on tattoos in an effort to bolster recruitment of qualified individuals who might otherwise have been excluded from joining.

Tattoos are now permitted on the hands and back of the neck if they are not “extremist, indecent, sexist or racist.” Army Regulation 670-1, which was modified via a message released Jan. 25, also now specifies: “Any tattoo or brand anywhere on the head or face is prohibited except for permanent make-up.”

For women, allowable make-up would be permanent eye-liner, eyebrows and makeup applied to fill in lips, officials said.

They said permanent make-up should be conservative and complement the uniform and complexion in both style and color and will not be trendy.

The change was made because Army officials realized the number of potential recruits bearing skin art had grown enormously over the years.

As a result, Army Regulation 670-1, chapter 1-8E (1) has been modified via an ALARACT 017/2006 message.

Additionally, paragraph 1-8B (1) (A) was revised to state: “Tattoos that are not extremist, indecent, sexist or racist are allowed on the hands and neck. Initial entry determinations will be made according to current guidance.”

The Army has never allowed indecent tattoos on any part of the body, G1 officials pointed out.



Courtesy photo

While the Army has now authorized tattoos on the hands and the back of the neck, they must not be extremist, indecent, sexist or racist.

The new policy allows recruits and all Soldiers to sport tattoos on the neck behind an imaginary line straight down and back of the jawbone, provided the tattoos don't violate good taste.

“The only tattoos acceptable on the neck are those on the back of the neck,” said Hank Minitrez, Army G-1 Human Resources Policy spokesman. “The ‘back’ of the neck is defined as being just under the ear lobe and across the back of the head. Throat tattoos on that portion of the neck considered the front, the ear lobe forward) are prohibited.”

Soldiers who are considering putting tattoos on their hands and necks, should consider asking their chain prior to being inked.

Should a Soldier not seek advice and have tattoos applied that aren't in keeping with AR-670, the command will counsel the Soldier

on medical options, but may not order the Soldier to have the tattoos removed.

However, if a Soldier opts not to take the medical option at Army expense, the Soldier may be discharged from service.

The Army's new policy, however, does not mean Soldiers should rush out and have the backs of their necks or their hands entirely covered in decorative art, Minitrez said.

If a Soldier's command has no issue with their tattoos, the Soldier should have personnel files so notated that they are in line with AR-670, officials said.

Though not mandatory, having the notation entered serves as back-up documentation at a follow-on command which might feel the Soldier's tattoos don't meet Army regulations.

Keeping your home away from home safe

By Tech. Sgt. Tim Benning

New Horizons 2006 – Honduras Services Flight

I just finished my weekly walk-through of all the tents on this week's safety inspection. I found it amazing that with all the briefings, meetings and reports about safety, just how unsafe the tents still are.

We all know that smoking inside the tents can lead to fires, but did you know that certain types of electrical products can also do the same? Statistics report a temper tent can burn to the ground in 10 seconds or less. With the proximity of the tents in our tent city, the entire row can burn down in just under five minutes.

Items we found that are not authorized in the tents:

- Curling irons
- Hairdryers
- Refrigerators
- Irons
- Coffee pots
- Halogen work lights
- Hot plates
- White, 2-prong, household extension cords

Other things we found were luggage bags lying directly on electrical outlets. This, too, can cause fires.

Every week, Tech. Sgt. Chris Orbits, the safety NCO, and I conduct a newcomer's briefing telling our new arrivals about the safety issues in and around tent city. Items discussed are clotheslines in the tents, trash in and around the tents, and walking between the tents. I want to place emphasis on each one of these items.

First, clotheslines – I can appreciate the fact that everyone wants to hang their uniforms and other articles of clothing up off the floor;



Courtesy photo

Leaving trash out only encourages scorpions, insects and animals to make a home in your home.

however use care when stringing the rope. Keep the rope out of high traffic areas such as the middle of the tent between door to door. If there is an evacuation we don't want anyone getting hung up on a clothesline.

Second, trash compiling in and around the tents can cause several problems. If there are any unused MRE heaters in the trash and water gets in the bag the heater will warm up and cause a fire.

Any trash built up in a tent is a great place for scorpions and other insects to live, and don't leave or hang your trash bags outside your tent; this attracts animals into the living areas.

Third, don't walk between the tents. Take the few extra seconds to walk around the tents at the end of the rows. There are too many guide lines and obscure stakes to make walking between the tents anything but safe.

Next week we will do another safety walk-through. Any violations will be removed from the tents and be given back when you leave. This is for the safety of all of us in tent city.

The Pico Bonito Times

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Photos by Tech. Sgt. Maria Bare

Laying the groundwork

Above: Air Force Staff Sergeant Seth Machler, an 11th Civil Engineering Squadron member from Bolling Air Force Base, Washington D.C. cuts rebar for the concrete forms at the Jutiapa medical clinic worksite.

Inset: Navy BUCN Mike Veroneau, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 7 out of Gulfport, Miss., measures the trench depth at the El Pino site before concrete is poured.

Left: Members of the NMCB 7 level off the concrete at the El Pino site.

Explore Honduras

Island of Roatan offers clear waters, sandy beaches, exotic adventure

Come discover the unparalleled beauty of Roatan, the largest of eight islands that are collectively known as Las Islas de la Bahia.

These islands rest upon the Bonacca Ridge, the result of an enormous crack

which runs long the ocean floor, about 40 miles northeast of the north coast of Honduras.

Lava from the earth's mantle welled up through this crack and formed the Caribbean plate, which buckled and created the Bonacca Ridge.

Roatan is 40 miles long and less than 4 miles wide at its widest point.

The islands have many attractions – brilliant blue and clear water, palm-fringed beaches cooled by constant tradewinds, exotic plants and nature trails.

One of the finest points about Roatan is the extensive fringing reef system that offers the most spectacular diving and snorkeling in the



Courtesy photos

The Roatan beaches team with snorkelers, scuba divers and vacationers from around the world.

Western Caribbean.

Roatan offers the ultimate getaway. Surrounded by warm Caribbean waters, this hilly island is as picturesque as it is unspoiled.

The dress for the entire island is very casual. Comfortable cool clothing, shorts and lightweight pants are recommended.

Even in the evening at better restaurants, the dress remains casual.

There are mosquitoes and sand flies, but, if you use repellent, you should not be bothered.

Roatan enjoys tradewinds the majority of the year, which make the climate even more comfortable.

How do I get there?

The ferry, M.V. Galaxy, departs from the Muelle de Cabotaje in La Ceiba and has daily service to the island.

The trip, which takes less than two hours is comfortable, with air/conditioning, video movies and snack service all being part of the trip. Another alternative is the air service.

There are several airlines doing service to Roatan from La Ceiba, and with connections to the rest of the country.

Islena Airlines, Sosa Airlines and Atlantic Airlines all serve Roatan.

Horseback riding through the nature trails is just one adventure available on the island of Roatan.

Others include snorkeling, scuba diving, shopping, tours and just plain relaxing.



Spanish 101

Enjoy a night at the movie theater – Honduran style

Where would you like to go?

¿Adónde queréis ir?

How about going to the cinema?

¿Queréis ir al cine?

I'd like to see a science-fiction movie.

Quiero ver una película ciencia ficción.

What is playing at the movie theater?

¿Qué está jugando en el teatro de la película?

Which movie do you want to see?

¿Qué película usted desea ver?

I've already seen it.

Ya lo he visto.

Is it subtitled in English?

¿Hay subtítulos en Inglés?

When does the last performance begin?

¿A qué hora comience la ultima representación?

How long does it last?

¿Cuánto tiempo dure?

How much are movie tickets?

¿Cuánto es boletos de la película?

I'll pay for the tickets.

Pagar las entradas.

I would like two tickets to see ...

Quisiera que dos boletos vieran...



Courtesy photo illustration

I would like to buy some popcorn.

Quisiera comprar un poco de palomitas.

What did you think of the

movie?

¿Qué usted pensó en la película?

I liked the movie.

Tuve gusto de la película.